

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Submission for Hendra Virus Vaccine Inquiry
Date: Friday, 22 April 2016 4:44:48 PM

I write this submission as a willing, passionate and open supporter of the Hendra Virus (HeV) vaccination.

1. I am the mother of 3 children, aged 12, 10 and 7 years). All 3 children ride horses and have done so for many years. We live on small acreage in the Western suburbs of Brisbane, and we have 5 ponies and horses paddocked/stabled at our home address. Our 3 children are dedicated horse owners and they spend several hours each day with their horses. Vaccinating our horses against the deadly HeV bore very little consideration for our family; the lives and safety of our children, our neighbours, our friends, our instructors, our Veterinarians, our farriers and all other people who have contact with our horses was and remains paramount. The HeV vaccination prevents ourselves and our horses from contracting the deadly disease.
2. Our ponies and horses range in age from 5 years to 23 years. All of our horses have been vaccinated against HeV since the initial vaccination roll out, with ongoing booster shots, without any adverse reactions whatsoever. We will continue to vaccinate our horses against HeV in accordance with the guidelines set out by the manufacturer.
3. Our children regular attend Pony Club musters and Equestrian Queensland (EQ) Interschool competitions. Our Pony Club has mandated HeV vaccination as a condition of membership. Our schools have mandated HeV vaccination as a condition of team participation. I cannot fathom that EQ has not mandated HeV as a condition of membership. I have acted in a responsible and socially aware manner by vaccinating our horses against HeV with the view to ensure that other people do not contract the deadly disease, and it disgusts me that our horses are yarded or tied up or compete alongside horses that are not vaccinated, thereby risking the life of my child, and everyone else at the event. Our family's annual fees for EQ membership are seemingly wasted - this organisation DOES NOT represent mine nor the view of all of my peers that HeV vaccination should be mandated at competition level. When referring to inquiries, it is EQ that ought to be the subject, not the efficacy of the vaccination. The EQ board has acted disgracefully and irresponsibly over the past 3 years, with particular stakeholders preferring to manipulate, bully, scaremonger, disregard and dismiss vital aspects of the matter for their own gain.

My opinion on the matter of the HeV vaccination is based on decades of scientific research, a very strong basis of professional advice from my veterinarian and the overarching responsibility as a horse owner to do everything within my capabilities to keep people and our horses safe.

HeV vaccination saves lives.

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